

**Woodworkers
Association
of NSW inc**

September October 2016 Newsletter

Exhibition countdown



Miko Nakamura and Kim Larymore pictured at the association's second (2015) Lane Cove exhibition

Association's third Lane Cove exhibition opens Wednesday 2 November

At the 2015 exhibition, our Chairperson, Brian Dawson, began his address by saying, in part:

This is an exhibition showing the work of the NSW Woodworkers Association, which has been in existence for 37 years. Originally (and for many years) the association was for professional woodworkers. It was started by three young professionals: Leon Sadubin, Les Miller and Alan Wale.

The association has survived ups and downs and is now a vigorous and active group. A difference between 1978 and now is that we are approximately half professional and half amateur with a wide range of skills.

His words apply equally to our third exhibition, opening in less than a month. They also serve to remind members that our association continues to serve its membership, and to grow and evolve. To all the members of this

year's exhibition committee (see page 6), we take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thanks to you all for your unstinting and tireless efforts in organising our very successful exhibitions. Many, many thanks!

Next members' Meeting 2016

7 for 7.30pm on Monday 3 October

at the association workshop 50A Spring Street, Abbotsford

Final 2016 meeting date: 5 December

Speaker and/or planned activities for the final meeting to be advised in the next edition



Brian Dawson, Chair

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If you'd like to join or assist the committee or be more involved in the association, call a committee member!

Life members: Richard Crosland, Phil Lake, Kim Larymore, Leon Sadubin, Richard Vaughan and Alan Wale

Chatter *from the* Chair

It is exhibition time and our exhibition is only a few weeks away, opening on Wednesday 2 November, running for four weeks. We have 39 entries so far, and a few more to come as I write.

The Treecycle 2016 Exhibition, held at the Royal Botanic Gardens in August, was a great success with close to 70 per cent of entries sold.

Leon Sadubin, one of our founder members, and his wife Ginny, curated the exhibition over a period several years.

We woodworkers of New South Wales have a lot to be thankful for and I would like to add a personal thank you to Leon and Ginny for their sterling work.

All the pieces were from felled, pruned or fallen trees from the Royal Botanic Gardens and had been carefully milled, stacked and dried at Canalpie Timbers by Richard Parsons to whom we owe our gratitude.

For me the finest moment was on opening night when a pro-

fessional violinist played Mikey Floyd's beautiful violin (see photo page 4).

She played some old Scottish airs that tugged at my heart strings. There was an awed silence then rapturous applause following her performance.

I spoke to the musician later and she said it had a wonderful timbre. I understand it was subsequently bought by a member of our very own Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

We were able to contact several of the Treecycle exhibitors and a number of them agreed to join our association and exhibit at Lane Cove. This will add depth and variety to our own exhibition.

Among those from Treecycle who are also exhibiting at Lane Cove Gallery are Colen Clenton the well known maker of exquisitely crafted woodworking tools, Ginny Grant, a successful jeweller who incorporates rare and beautiful timbers into her silver work

Continues page 4



Treecycle 2016

MEMBERS SPECIAL

Evan Dunstone workshop

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 February 2017

One of our committee members, Steve Townsend, suggested we have a members' workshop with Evan Dunstone, where participants buy one of Evan's Alpha Chair kits and he helps us put them together.

This was a good suggestion. Evan is an accomplished furniture maker in Queanbeyan and his Alpha Chair Kit is an excellent way to learn about making chairs.

The kit costs \$298 and the result is an ergonomically designed, comfortable and attractive chair.

So, I rang Evan to discuss it with him. He has suggested we do his Beta stool instead as a first project.

It is a little cheaper (\$220) and is a great way to develop skills that are of general application. We can then do a follow-up workshop with the chair.

The stool is an attractive, versatile and functional addition to every home. You can see it at www.dunstonedesign.com.au/furniture/product/beta-stool-kit.

So Evan is going to come to Sydney and conduct a weekend workshop for members in our workshop.

We think that six would probably be the maximum in the workshop so everyone can get the benefit of Evan's assistance. Members will need to bring their own set of basic tools. We will provide a list.

The workshop will run from 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday, 4-5 February 2017.



Evan Dunstone's Beta Stool

Evan proposes to use the stool design as the basis for teaching related hand skills, so members will be getting a lot more than just a "how to make a stool" session.

The cost per member for Evan's expertise, time and modest accommodation will be \$230 per person.

It is cheaper than a comparable class at Sturt and is rather more convenient!

As usual, we will operate on a first-in, best-dressed basis and then have a waiting list.

If you would like to register or would like more information, send me an email:
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Phil Greenwood

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Violin by Mikey Floyd, made with Monterey cypress and Kaffir plum

and Hape Kibble, who produces fine sculptural works in wood.

Members workshop

Peter Harris ran a successful marquetry course in July in our workshop and introduced six of us to the intricacies of scrollsawing and inlaying contrasting veneers to form simple as well as complex designs.



Works by Mellisa Allen, exhibiting at Treecycle 2016

Vale Alan Wale

It was a sad day when we heard last week of the passing away of Alan Wale.

He was a pivotal figure in the fine woodworking worlds of NSW, a founding member of our own association and a teacher at Sturt School for Wood in Mittagong.

Condolences have been sent to his widow on behalf of the New South Wales Woodworkers Association.

Association archives

A former member, Ken Joynes, has a large number of newsletters dating from before our own digitised set and has kindly presented them to us for safekeeping and prosperity.

Brian Dawson

To have your work featured in the newsletter, simply email some photos and a few words about the item (or items) to the editor at jhn@bigpond.com

Hammer happiness

During winter, we had a weekend sojourn at Gerroa with friends. Gerroa is 130 km south of Sydney, a bit over two hours drive. It is a very pretty spot, on the headland at the north end of Seven Mile Beach, adjacent to the Crooked River.

In 1933, Sir Charles Kingston Smith took off from the beach on the first commercial flight to New Zealand.

Anyway, I was thinking of what we might do while visiting, and it occurred to me that we should drive over to Greenwell Point, which is well known for its oysters.

And then, from the deep recesses, I had a recollection of a chap who lived at Greenwell Point who had an interesting collection.

A quick search of the Internet turned up an old article in the Greenwell Point Gazette on Brian Pickett (see www.greenwellpoint.info/files/gazette/vol43.pdf).

The article tells of Brian's collection of over 4,500 hammers in his *Hamma Lot* gallery. I rang Brian to see if we could visit and view his collection.

Unfortunately, said Brian, he had decided to sell his collection. He had started to dismantle the gallery and many hammers were in boxes. But he graciously invited us over, apologising in advance for the mess.

But when we arrived there was no mess - just treasure.



Two priceless hammers

About 20 years ago, Brian saw a small hammer at a market. It intrigued him. It had a story, so he started collecting hammers with stories. And a lot with unknown stories as well.

It is probably fair to say that he became a little obsessed but people reading this newsletter will understand that as a compliment.

You can see a video of Brian and his collection at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Me2f1JbKOw0>, which captures his passion.

He has carefully catalogued almost all his hammers so he knows where he acquired them (and how much he paid).

Rather than being sad to lose the collection, Brian said he was actually enjoying the process. He

has been taking the hammers to local markets, talking to people, telling the hammer stories and selling the hammers to interested people. And a little cash in the pocket is always a bonus.

We browsed. The collection was still very impressive. We found hammers of all shapes and sizes.

Brian has selected his favourite 500 hammers and put them in display cabinets. He plans to keep them for his grandson who is presently six years old.

Of course, we had to buy a couple of hammers. My wife selected one that appealed to her. "Oh!" Brian said to me, "she's picked the most expensive hammer in the collection!"

We waited anxiously as Brian consulted his catalogue and told us the price. "It is a locksmith's hammer with an original oak sculpted handle: a really beauty".

I was now getting really nervous. I didn't want an expensive, antique hammer. I was really just wanting to help out so he had one or two less hammers to sell.

Eventually he announced "I'll let that one go for . . . \$5." Phew! Done. So we went crazy and also bought a panel beater's hammer - also for \$5.

There are plenty of hammers left, if you're interested. You can find Brian and his remaining hammers at 9 Church St, Greenwell Point 2540. P: 4447 1992

Phil Greenwood

2016 Lane Cove Exhibition

At the Lane Cove Gallery from Wednesday 2 to Sunday 27 November

This is a great opportunity to see members' works so we urge all members to promote the exhibition as much as they can.

We have had two successful exhibitions in the past two years and we want this one to equal or surpass our previous ones.

For more information, contact a committee member.
Exhibition committee list on page 8.



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Combining timber and carbon fibre

I picked the timber for this table from a huge pile in Canalpie Timbers, north of Richmond in October 2015.

It was to make a piece for the Treecycle 2016 exhibition. It is Monterey Cypress, planted in the Royal Botanic Gardens soon after the completion of the building of The Chalet - the official Chief Secretary's house - around 1890 and was felled in 2013.

It was 21 metres tall and yielded a number of pieces for the Treecycle 2016 exhibition, including the violin mentioned in Chatter from the Chair (see page 2).

The timber is easy to work and quite soft and is thus easy to damage, so must be treated with care.

It has a beautiful grain but has not a lot of strength.

Part way through construction I realised that the delicately curved legs may not have sufficient strength. But rather than re-make larger legs, which had already



Slabs from Canalpie Timbers

taken many painstaking hours, I decided to reinforce them.

Steve Townsend had recently bought some carbon fibre and he kindly gave me some. Carbon fibre is immensely strong in ten-



Detail of the carbon fibre reinforcement

sion and performs better than fibreglass.

I laid a double thickness of mat with epoxy on the upper surface of each leg where the greatest tensions occur.

The table will be on show at the Lane Cove Exhibition.

Brian Dawson



The finished table will be on display at the association's Lane Cove exhibition

2016 Lane Cove Exhibition Committee

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David Palmer - david.palmer@tpg.com.au

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A piece of hickory

As advised at the October meeting, a few weeks ago, the association was contacted by a Newport resident wanting to know if anyone wanted some pecan wood.

A year or so ago, she'd trimmed a bough off the pecan tree in their back garden and kept it with the intention of burning it in their fireplace. However she was not so fond of the smell.

Pecan is apparently also known as hickory. Members can read about it at: <http://www.wood-database.com/pecan/>. Let me know if you would like some.

Phil Greenwood

AngleMag saw guide

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\$100 for non-members

Contact a committee member for more information.

See page 2 for committee member contact details.

To the NSW Woodworkers Association

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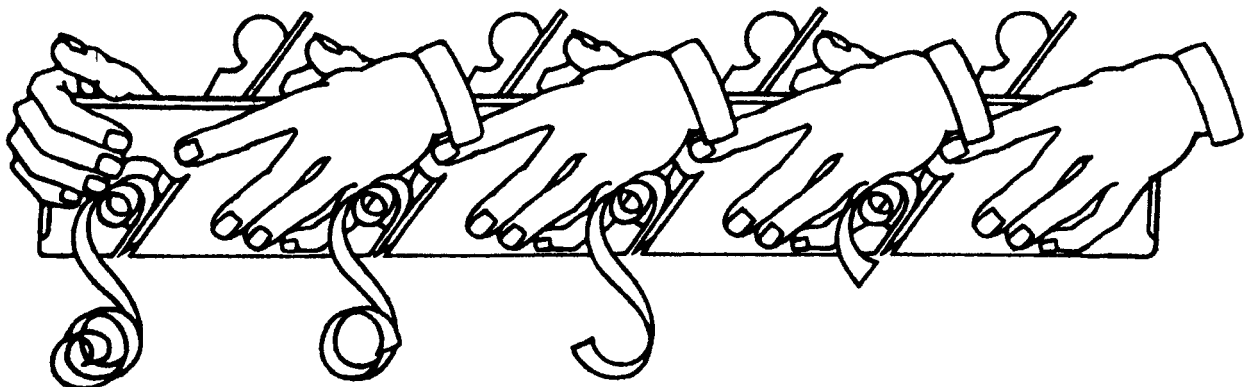
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